

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. In a computer network comprising a server system and a client system, a client-controlled method for formatting a document for presentation on an output device coupled to the client system comprising the steps of:

10 receiving the document and a layout generator from the server, the layout generator operative for selecting one of a plurality of style sheets based upon a capability of the output device;

15 receiving the selected style sheet from the server; and formatting the document for presentation on the output device using the selected style sheet.

20 2. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of using the layout generator to interrogate the output device to determine the capability of the output device prior to selecting one of the style sheets.

25 3. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, wherein the layout generator is embedded in the document.

4. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, wherein the layout generator is external to the document.

30 5. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, wherein the output device is a display device and the capability of the output device is resolution.

35 6. The client-controlled method of Claim 1, wherein the selected style sheet comprises a style definition which defines a format value for a format property, and wherein the format value is supported by the capability of the output device.

7. The client-controlled method of Claim 6, wherein the format property is a text property.

1. The property is not a "qualified plan" or "qualified pension plan" as defined in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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11. In a computer network comprising a server system and a client system, a server-controlled method for generating a style sheet used by the client system to format a document for presentation on an output device attached to the client system comprising the steps of:

5 retrieving the document and a layout generator; and
 using the layout generator to perform the steps of:
 interrogating the output device coupled to the
client system to determine a set of capabilities of the output device;
 based upon the set of capabilities of the output
10 device, generating a style sheet having a plurality of style definitions;
and
 sending the style sheet and the document to the
client system.

15 12. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein
the output device is a display device and the set of capabilities comprises
resolution and supported colors of the display device.

20 13. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein
each of the style definitions assigns a format value to a format property,
and wherein the step of generating a style sheet having a plurality of
style definitions comprises generating a plurality of style definitions with
format values supported by the set of capabilities of the output device.

25 14. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein
the layout generator is embedded in the document.

30 15. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein
the layout generator is external to the document.

35 16. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein
the style sheet is embedded in the document.

 17. The server-controlled method of Claim 11, wherein
the style sheet is external to the document.

18. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for formatting a document for an output device comprising:

5 a document component comprising document content;
a plurality of style sheet components, each style sheet component defining format values for a plurality of format properties;
a layout generator component for determining a capability of the output device and for selecting one of the style sheet components as a selected style sheet component based upon the capability
10 of the output device; and
a presentation component for formatting the document content for the output device using the selected style sheet component.

15 19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the document component is a generalized markup language document.

20 20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein one of the format properties is a text property.

21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 20, wherein one of the style sheet components defines a format value for a text property by defining a format value for letter spacing.

25 22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein one of the format properties is a font property.

30 23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 22, wherein one of the style sheet components defines a format value for a font property by defining a format value for font size.

24. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein one of the format properties is a color property.

35 25. The computer-readable medium of Claim 24, wherein one of the style sheet components defines a format value for a color property by defining a format value for background color.

26. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein one of the format properties is a page property.

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27. The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein one of the style sheet components defines a format value for a page property by defining a format value for page margins.

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1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	

28. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for formatting a document for an output device comprising:

5 a document component comprising document content;
a layout generator component for interrogating the output device to determine a capability of the output device and for generating a style sheet component based upon the capability of the output device; and

10 a presentation component for formatting the document content for the output device using the style sheet component.

29. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28, wherein the layout generator generates a style sheet component by selecting a style definition which defines a format value for a format property, the format value supported by the capability of the output device.

30. The computer-readable medium of Claim 29, wherein the format property is selected from one of the following format properties:

a font property;
a color and background property;
a text property; and
25 a page property.

31. The computer-readable medium of Claim 29, wherein the output device is a display device, the format property is a font property, and the capability of the output device is high resolution, and wherein the layout generator generates a style sheet component by generating a style definition which defines a font value for a high resolution display device.

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32. The computer-readable medium of Claim 29, wherein the output device is a display device, the format property is a text property, and the capability of the output device is a resolution, and wherein the layout generator generates a style sheet component by:

5 if the resolution is within a first predetermined resolution range, then generating a style sheet definition which defines a text value for a high resolution display device;

10 if the resolution is within a second predetermined resolution range, then generating a style definition which defines a text value for a medium resolution display device; and

if the resolution is within a third predetermined resolution range, then generating a style definition which defines a text value for a medium resolution display device.

15 33. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28, wherein the layout generator embeds the style sheet component in the document component.

20 34. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28, wherein the style sheet component is external to the document component.

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